



NEWS RELEASE

Matthew D. Orwig
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 17, 2006

Contact: Davilyn Brackin
Public Information Officer
(409) 839-2538 office
(409) 553-9881 cell

THREE PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that three additional defendants have pleaded guilty to federal charges related to a drug bust earlier this year in the Eastern District of Texas. **RANDY LYNN WILLIAMS**, 40, of Van Zandt, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. **THOMAS JEAN HILL**, 47, of Perryton, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with a removed serial number. **RODNEY RAY WEST**, 20, of Dallas pleaded guilty to use of a communication facility to facilitate the commission of a felony. The three men entered their pleas today before United States Magistrate Judge John Love.

According to information presented in court, on February 11, 2006, a search warrant was executed at the Van Zandt County residence of Julie Darlene Null as a result of a DPS Narcotics investigation into methamphetamine distribution. Several individuals, along with approximately 118 grams of methamphetamine and over \$30,000 cash, were present during the execution of the search warrant. On May 2, 2006, a 9-count indictment was returned by a federal grand jury charging nine defendants with various crimes, including conspiracy to distribute

methamphetamine, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, use of a communication facility to facilitate the commission of a felony, and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

Last week, Ronald Greg Null and Renell Grace Payne each pleaded guilty to separate counts of using a communication facility to facilitate the commission of a felony.

Williams faces up to 20 years in federal prison at sentencing. Hill could receive as much as five years in federal prison and West faces up to four years in federal prison. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mary Ann Cozby.

###